

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 817, which supports the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence issues and support programs designed to end domestic violence.

Twenty-two years ago, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed and since 1989 legislation designating October as National Violence Awareness Month has passed every year. Domestic violence affects people of every age, race, ethnicity, religion, and gender. Women are most disproportionately affected and nearly one in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Every single day in the United States, more than three women are murdered by their significant other. Young women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence. Every year, over 15 million children are exposed to domestic violence and these children are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs, attempt suicide, and become involved in teenage prostitution. These statistics are sobering.

In a struggling economy, domestic violence programs are needed more than ever. Earlier this year marked the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Violence Against Women Act; however, more work must be done to protect victims of domestic violence. In my home State of California, cuts in state financing have led to elimination of funding for shelter services. This has translated to cuts in services and fewer victims being served. Ultimately, this sends a message that victims of domestic abuse are not a priority to our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

HONORING OLGA MURRAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Olga Murray of Sausalito, California, for her commitment to helping destitute children in one of the poorest countries of the world. In 1984, at the age of 60, Ms. Murray founded the Nepal Youth Opportunity Foundation, NYOF, which assists thousands of children through programs operated by the Nepalese themselves.

The mission of NYOF, which arose from Murray's vision, is to "transform the lives of impoverished Nepalese children by providing them with what should be every child's birthright—education, housing, medical care, and loving support." Inspired by these compelling words, NYOF's programs include homes for neglected and abandoned children, education programs and scholarships from grade school through graduate school, and even random acts of kindness.

But Murray may be best known for her innovative Indentured Daughters program which frees young girls from servitude. Among Tharu farmers, families in poverty sell their girls as young as 6 years old to serve in bondage to higher-caste families around the country where they perform menial labor under difficult conditions and are sometimes beaten and forced into prostitution. Often, the parents believe their daughters will actually be better off. Although the practice is now illegal, the prohibition is not enforced.

Murray's solution is to offer the parents a pig or goat in exchange for not selling their daughters as the animal is worth more if bred or butchered. She also pays the daughters' \$100 per year school expenses and has funded construction of 36 classrooms to accommodate them. Murray has saved thousands of young girls this way and inspired Nepalese charities to follow her lead in saving even more.

Murray is a prodigious fundraiser for NYOF, recognized as one of the most effective organizations of its kind. However, it is her personal passion and loving joy for her work and the people of Nepal that are the secret of her success. She has received numerous prestigious awards including Unsung Heroes of Compassion from the Dalai Lama, a medal from the King of Nepal, the Mannington Stand on a Better World Award, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society Frank Brennan Award for Outstanding Service to the Poor.

Madam Speaker, I admire Ms. Murray's commitment to creating opportunities for the children of Nepal. The children of the world are our future, and we can be inspired by people like Olga to make this world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER DOROTHY ANN KELLY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, OSU, whose extraordinary life of service as an educational leader and visionary, a champion for social justice and interfaith understanding, and a mentor to thousands of women and men will be celebrated by the Alumnae/i Association of the College of New Rochelle on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

Sister Dorothy Ann, the 11th president of the College of New Rochelle, died suddenly

on March 27, 2009, ending her 60-year affiliation with the college, from which she had graduated in 1951. At the time of her death, she was in her 6th year as Provincial Prioress of the Eastern Province of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the order of Roman Catholic nuns that she had entered in 1952.

Sister Dorothy Ann started her 25-year tenure as CNR president in the early 1970s, at a time when many all-women's colleges across the country were foundering. She gave new life to CNR by establishing its School of New Resources to educate adult students on six branch campuses in urban New York City neighborhoods. A commuter student from the Bronx, who had attended CNR on a scholarship, Sister Dorothy Ann saw the School of New Resources as furthering the original mission of the college to make higher education more accessible to those who weren't being well served. Two other schools were also established at CNR during her presidency—the School of Nursing and the Graduate School—earning her the unofficial title as "second founder" of the college.

Her immeasurable talents as an effective, inspiring, tenacious and energetic leader soon brought her expanded roles in higher education. In 1978, she was named the first woman chair of the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities of the State of New York, and 9 years later, became the first woman chair of the National Association of Colleges and Universities.

Sister Dorothy Ann's influence and impact were also felt in other arenas, on the local, national and even international scene. In 1974, she became one of the first members of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Religious Council of New Rochelle, and maintained that association until her death. Shortly thereafter, convinced that the violence in northern Ireland had to be stopped, she not only hosted Nobel Peace Prize winners Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Betty Williams several times at the college, but also served as the first president of a New York-based group formed to finance the Northern Ireland Peace People. And in 1995, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton as a member of the official U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Her achievements and contributions to numerous organizations and causes won her wide recognition, with honors including induction into the Westchester County Women's Hall of Fame and honorary degrees from six U.S. colleges and universities. But far more meaningful and lasting are the heartfelt tributes from the thousands whose lives she touched—and improved—through her landmark efforts to expand educational opportunities and increase understanding among peoples of all faiths, races and cultural backgrounds. I urge you to join me in honoring Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly's remarkable legacy of service and commitment to making this a better world.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on October 26, 2009. Had I voted, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 814 and "aye" on rollcall No. 815.

WATER POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a water crisis threatens to destabilize Iraq and the entire Middle East.

Iraqi leaders warn that disaster areas suffering from the water crisis, like Basra, provide a breeding ground for insurgents.

Refugees fleeing the water crisis have deserted their homes and constitute the biggest movement of Iraqi refugees since the Iran war of the 1980s. The Iraqi military has had to intervene, and it's only a matter of time before the water crisis becomes a security crisis that imperils regional peace.

Just how serious is this water crisis?

The Euphrates River, which once supported empires in the cradle of civilization, is now barely fit for human use. In some areas it's "A slick black ooze, fit only for scores of bathing water buffalo." In other areas, salinity levels have risen so high that towns have been evacuated, their citizens unable to drink the fetid water.

In Basra, for example, low water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates have brought salt water rushing in from the Persian Gulf. Rising salinity levels threaten the viability of local agriculture so much that Amer Suleiman, Basra's agriculture director, will soon declare Basra a "disaster area" and warns that "if things continue to deteriorate there is no hope for Basra to recover."

What can be done about Iraq's water crisis? What can be done to replenish the Tigris and Euphrates?

The first solution is to reform Iraq's careless water management system.

Nibras al Mamouri, a professor of water resources at Baghdad's College of Agriculture, says "poor irrigation techniques and a lack of incentives to stop wasting so much water" are partly to blame for the current shortage.

The second solution, an international solution, reminds us that a water crisis in Iraq has consequences for the entire Middle East.

The Iraqi government, rightly or wrongly, has blamed the water crisis on its neighbors, principally Turkey and Syria but also Iran.

To resolve the water crisis, Iraq must negotiate a more equitable water sharing agreement—

(1) With Turkey, which controls the headwaters of both rivers—

(2) With Syria, through which the rivers pass—

(3) And with Iran, which controls two other rivers—the Karun and the Karkheh—that feed into the Faw Peninsula and Basra.

Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, responding to the water crisis, met earlier this month in Ankara to discuss a solution. But little has been achieved so far—neither Turkey nor Syria has been particularly sympathetic to Iraq, especially since each faces its own water shortage.

The difficulty of reaching an agreement underscores the unique diplomatic challenge posed by water politics. River water cannot belong to only one country because it flows between many countries. This is complicated by the fact that water flows in only one direction, and that upstream countries affect water levels downstream, but not vice versa.

Turkey, for example, which controls the headwaters of both the Tigris and the Euphrates, can control water flows to downstream countries, such as Syria and Iraq. Syria and Iraq begin any water negotiation with Turkey at an a priori disadvantage. But without greater Turkish cooperation, water shortages could spell disaster for Syrian and Iraqi agriculture, and spillover effects could destabilize the region.

The planned Ilisu dam, to be built on the Turkish part of the Tigris, is especially controversial in Iraq, which has already accused Turkey of choking the Euphrates with hydroelectric dams.

Some Iraqi leaders even suggest that water is being used as a weapon against Iraq and threaten war.

Tayseer al Mashadani, an Iraqi member of parliament, warns that "Iraq's water crisis . . . could lead us into war with one of our neighbors. The new war on Iraq is a war of water." But, before we accept the inevitability of war, we should reflect on words from the late Senator Simon: "Water," he said "can be a catalyst for war and can also create peace between nations."

In the Middle East we have an extraordinary opportunity to make cooperative water sharing serve the cause of peace.

Our voice carries a lot of weight in the region, and we should use that weight to support a water sharing agreement between Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria.

The consequences of failure are too great.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JOSEPH A. MANENTE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. Joseph A. Manente of Girard, Ohio.

GIRARD—Joseph A. Manente, 74, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown.

He was born June 13, 1935, in Girard, a son of Carmen and Gabriella Carson Manente.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of St. Rose Church, Girard.

He retired from the Girard Post Office.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Miller Manente; two children, Lisa Manente Leschinsky of Girard and Greg of Hartford; two brothers, Anthony Manente of Austintown and Sam Manente of Mineral Ridge, and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by five brothers and sisters.

Calling hours will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at McClurkin Funeral Home, Girard.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Rose Church with prayers at 10:30 at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Girard City Cemetery.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL P. SULLIVAN AS THE CHAUTAUQUA LEADERSHIP NETWORK'S 2009 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize my friend, Michael P. Sullivan, the Director of Institution Relations and Public Affairs at Chautauqua Institution, as the recipient of Chautauqua Leadership Network's 2009 Leadership Award.

The Chautauqua Leadership Network's mission is to identify and nurture regional leaders. They provide a framework for an emerging network of skilled civic trustees and help the community to meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

The Chautauqua Leadership Network's Leadership Award is given to the person whose activities have done the most to further the mission of the Chautauqua Leadership Network; and there is no question that Mr. Sullivan is a commendable choice. His professional undertakings have had a profoundly positive effect on Chautauqua County.

Since 1998, Mr. Sullivan has been responsible for all marketing, public relations, and communication activities for the Chautauqua Institution. He previously worked as Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Highland Hospital in Rochester. As a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Mr. Sullivan earned his APR (Accredited in Public Relations) and served as president of the Rochester Chapter of Delegates to the PRSA National Assembly.

I would like to congratulate Mike for achieving this honor. I am pleased and honored to recognize Mr. Sullivan as the recipient of the Chautauqua Leadership Network's 2009 Leadership Award. This award honors Michael's years of guidance, leadership, and devotion to not only the Institution, but Chautauqua County as well.

CONGRATULATING KRISTINE WALTER AND DARREN ROSE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor both Kristine Walter and Darren Rose for their past and present role in Leadership Fresno. Kristine Walter is the current chairman of this worthy, community-building organization, and Darren Rose was elected the incoming chairman beginning in July 2010.